UNFPA
United Nations Population Fund

POPULATION

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McNamara proposes "massive global effort" to slow population growth

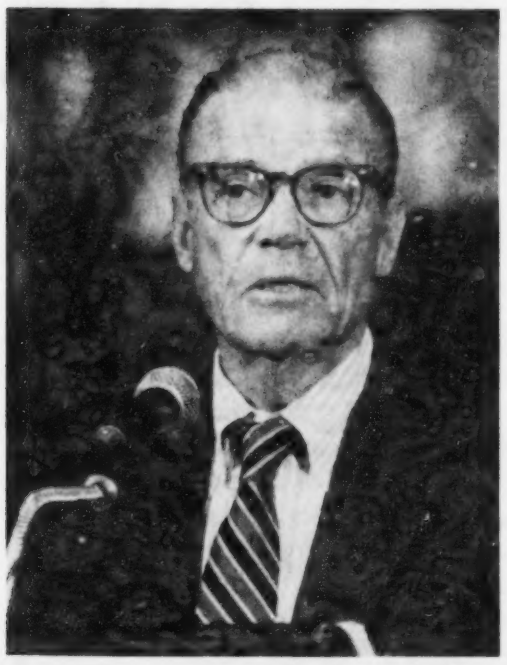
A "MASSIVE GLOBAL EFFORT" is urgently needed to slow down population growth during the 1990s, according to former World Bank President Robert McNamara. Without it, population growth might destroy the environment and undo the economic and social gains of past decades, he said.

Delivering the third Rafael M. Salas Memorial Lecture at the United Nations 10 December, McNamara proposed a six-point plan that he estimated would cost about US$ 8 billion annually, in 1990 dollars, in public funds by the year 2000, with US$ 4.5 billion of the total coming from developing countries themselves.The foreign funding required would increase from US$ 800 million to US$ 3.5 billion annually. "While the increment appears large, it is very, very small in relation to the GNP [gross national product] and official development assistance, or ODA, projected for the OECD [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development] countries," he said. "In the year 2000 it would amount to less than two-hundredths of one per cent of their GNP and 5 per cent of their ODA."

It is in the interests of developing and industrialized countries to take "immediate action to accelerate the reduction in population growth rates," he said, warning that failure to do so could result in the tripling of world population within 100 years, as the latest UN projections portend. He also urged industrialized countries to check excessive consumption.

Under the plan proposed by McNamara:

- each developing country would establish its own long-term population stabilization goal, supported by targets for fertility rates, contraceptive prevalence levels, family planning expenditures, and sources of finance, to be met in the 1990s;
- each developing country would prepare specific plans to achieve its goals, and "report to its own people each year on the degree to which they are being achieved";
- the World Bank would organize the necessary external financing and offer last-resort financing;
- UNFPA would monitor the global programme;
- a ministerial-level meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council would receive annual reports from UNFPA on "the progress or lack thereof and determine what further action is required" to assure sustainable development and poverty alleviation; and
- a population commission chaired "preferably by a woman from a developing country" would assist in preparing for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.



UNFPA/Brian Alpert

Former World Bank President Robert S. McNamara giving the third Rafael M. Salas Memorial Lecture.

Delays in starting could be costly, he warned. "For example, if Pakistan continues on its present course with very gradual reductions in fertility, its population of 115 million will rise to 556 million. If, however, it were to introduce a truly effective family planning programme, which it does not now have, during this decade, it could hold its ultimate population to approximately 334 million. The difference is 222 million, equal to 194 per cent of today's population."

McNamara said that he first voiced his concern over population growth in 1968, when he became president of the World Bank. In the intervening 23 years, the world's population grew by some 2 billion people "faster than ever before," and he became increasingly convinced that the world needs economic growth combined with population control and "substantial reductions in . . . environmental damage per unit of production."

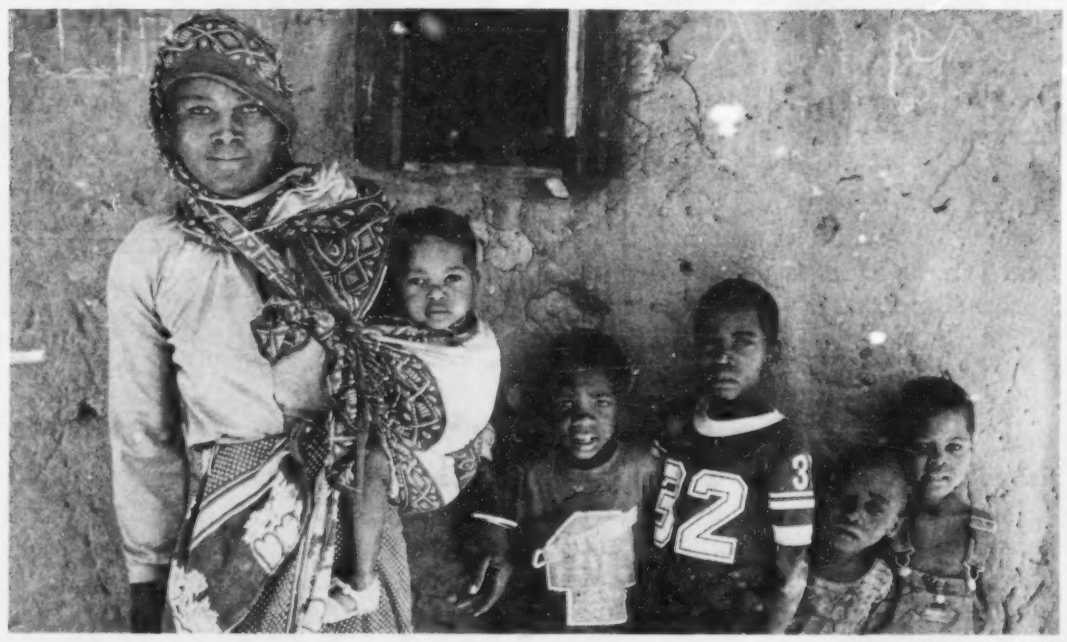
"Both developed and developing countries must put primary emphasis on raising production per capita if they are to meet the demands of their people for a better life," he said. "For decades ahead, no other course will be acceptable."

He said that to achieve sustainable development—economic and social progress that does not destroy the environment—"each nation individually, and all nations collectively, should begin now to identify and introduce the changes necessary to achieve sustainability if we are to avoid more precipitate and costly action—and, I fear, coercive action—at some time in the future."

Born 9 June 1916 in San Francisco, McNamara was educated at the University of California and Harvard University. He joined the Ford Motor Company in 1946, becoming its president in 1960. He was the U.S. Secretary of Defense from 1961 until 1968, when he became president of the World Bank. Since leaving the World Bank in 1981, he has been a director of various public and private institutions, including the Brookings Institute, the Ford Foundation, the Bank of America, Corning Glass Works, and Trans World Airways, and a member of the international advisory committee of the investment firm of Goldman Sachs.

Rafael M. Salas was the first executive director of UNFPA from its inception in 1969 until his death in 1987. Previous Salas Lectures were given by former Japanese Foreign Minister Saburo Okita and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. □

Motherhood risks reassessed



Jorgen Schytte

Maternity is riskiest in sub-Saharan Africa, where increased numbers of births have led to a parallel upswing in the number of maternal deaths, according to the World Health Organization.

PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH may have become somewhat safer for women in most of Asia and parts of Latin America, but remain highly risky for women in much of sub-Saharan Africa, where increased numbers of births have led to a parallel upswing in the number of maternal deaths. This, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), which has revised its global and regional estimates of maternal mortality.

Globally, the risks associated with maternity are about 5 per cent lower than they were five years ago. But because the number of births increased by some 7 per cent over the same period, the total number of maternal deaths remains almost unchanged. More than 500,000 women continue to die each year from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Most of these deaths occur in South Asia, simply because most births occur in this region; one-third of the world's births and almost half its maternal deaths happen here.

However, the risks related to pregnancy and childbirth that a woman faces are highest in Eastern, Middle, and West Africa. In these regions, a woman who becomes pregnant is 75 times more likely to die as a result than a woman in Western Europe. In countries such as Somalia and the Gambia, the chances of death are 100 times greater.

The maternal mortality estimates in current use were made by WHO in preparation for the 1987 Safe Motherhood Conference. The new estimates were calculated on the basis of new information from community studies and improved information systems, in large part under a joint project with UNFPA, launched in 1988, which aimed to shed light on the extent and causes of women's deaths and serious illness tied to maternity. Summaries and analysis of country-specific findings appear in *Maternal Mortality: A Global Factbook*, published by WHO with UNFPA assistance.

WHO urges caution in comparing the new estimates with the earlier ones because it is not immediately apparent which changes are real and which are the result of better information that has become available in the meantime.

Aside from areas such as the Caribbean where an apparent increase in maternal mortality is attributable to better information, the only real increases in maternal mortality have taken place in sub-Saharan Africa, where increases in the risks of pregnancy have been aggravated by very large increases in the number of births. The resulting situation is the worst in the world, WHO experts say, and reflects deteriorating economic and health conditions.

Maternal Mortality: A Global Factbook *is available from: Distribution and Sales, WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.* □

India to improve sterilization programme

by Abid Aslam

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT is taking steps to improve its sterilization programme, according to UNFPA Country Director Tevia Abrams.

With the Fund's assistance, the government is developing "centres of excellence" where the latest sterilization technologies and specially-trained personnel are expected to assure high quality counselling and sterilization services.

As Abrams spoke to *Population* in New York last month, Indian Minister of State for Health Thara Devi Siddhartha told parliament in New Delhi that more than four million Indians were sterilized in fiscal 1990, fewer sterilizations than two years ago.

Some 3.8 million women had tubectomies in the fiscal year that ended last April, and 249,000 men had vasectomies, Siddhartha said. The previous year, four million women had their Fallopian tubes ligated or removed, and 341,000 men had vasectomies, he added. He gave no reason for the decline, according to news reports.

Abrams reported that family planning personnel were receiving training in the latest sterilization techniques, including no-scalpel vasectomies.

"The idea is to encourage more males to adopt this method," he said.

Family planning staff are also being trained in recanalization procedures, he said, "as an assurance to the public that recanalization will be safe and effective, if required."

During recanalization, a surgeon attempts to restore an individual's ability to have children by connecting the segments of the Fallopian tubes or the *vasa deferentia*. Studies show that although in most cases people who have opted for sterilization do not change their minds, circumstances such as the loss of children or a partner and remarriage sometimes result in regret which is strong enough for an individual to pursue reversal surgery.

But reversing sterilization is more difficult and risky than sterilization itself, according to the Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception. The success of recanalization depends on a variety of factors, including the age and health of the client and his or her partner, the length of undamaged tubes or *vasa* that remains, and the skill and experience of the surgeon. Success rates are not readily available, partly because there is no single definition of success. Some studies equate success with tubal patency, or unobstructed tubes. Others say success is any uterine pregnancy, regardless of outcome. But to the individual who undergoes reversal surgery, a pregnancy that ends in a live birth is the only meaningful standard of success.

ILO

Learning about male and female reproduction organs, Aurangabad, India.

In related developments, Abrams reported that the government is planning to introduce the NORPLANT ® contraceptive implant some time this year.

Plans to make available the hormone-releasing implants are "being carefully drawn up to involve women's organizations, so as to take into account their views," he said.

Medical personnel will be trained to insert and remove the matchstick-size implants, six of which are placed under the skin of a woman's forearm. The training will emphasize the importance of counselling for women considering insertion, follow-up care, and the timely removal of the implants at the end of the five years during which they are effective, Abrams said.

"We believe very strongly that the quality of counselling will be a key element in the success of the Norplant programme because although it is long-lasting, the method is a complicated one and requires adequate preparation through sensitive interaction between potential clients and service personnel," he added.

Family Planning in India gained notoriety in the 1970s amid widespread concern about forced sterilizations during the national Emergency period declared by the late prime minister Indira Gandhi. However, despite a backlash that took years to overcome, and despite the distribution of free condoms, sterilization today remains the most popular contraceptive method in the rural villages where most Indians live, health officials say.

India's population is at least 844 million, second only to China's, according to preliminary results of last year's census. The country's population density, however, is twice that of China's. □

AIDS seen as depleting African workforce

AIDS COULD DEPLETE Africa's workforce by up to 20 percent in the next five years as millions of people die, according to a World Health Organization (WHO) official.

Dr. Michael Merson, director of WHO's Global Programme on AIDS, told a conference of African planning ministers on 26 November in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, that he feared "the loss of elites in the urban workforce." He urged delegates from 45 African countries to begin studying which population sectors would be hardest hit.

"We need to know . . . what the loss in nurses and doctors is going to mean in your countries, as well as educators and other professionals," he said.

Merson said farm production would decrease and the number of teachers and other workers also would fall because of AIDS, which could claim as many as 20 million African victims by century's end. He also said WHO was having trouble raising enough money to combat AIDS. He said the Global Programme on AIDS had budgeted US$ 100 million for 1991, but so far had raised only US$ 70 million.

"We are very concerned that donor response to AIDS may have peaked," he said.

Last month, Merson visited New York, where he urged corporations, foundations, and religious organizations to contribute more to the fight against AIDS in developing countries.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, for which there is no known cure, undermines the body's immunity to infections. Worldwide, seven in ten people with the AIDS-causing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) are estimated by WHO to have been infected trough heterosexual intercourse.

The HIV virus prevalent in Africa has a different structure from strains found in the West, however. In addition to HIV-1, Africa is afflicted with HIV-2, a strain that is harder to diagnose and which is beginning to show up in the West.

As *Population* goes to print, scientists are gathering in Dakar, Senegal for the Sixth International Conference on AIDS in Africa, at which they are expected to discuss research into vaccines specifically targeted for developing countries. Many health experts charge the problems of developing countries were overlooked at the International AIDS Conference in Florence last July. There, American researchers conceded that any drug developed in their laboratories would be of little or no use in Africa, because all strains of the virus under study for potential vaccines were from the West.

The condom, or male barrier contraceptive, has been shown to be effective in preventing the transmission of sexual diseases, including AIDS. Yet, studies show that only 6 per cent of contraceptive users worldwide choose condoms. □

Iran: Reading, writing, and family planning

WOMEN, OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH, and factory workers are expected to be among the beneficiaries of a new project that integrates population education and literacy curricula.

The project, launched by UNFPA and the Iranian government's Literacy Movement Organization (LMO) last October, sets out to make illiterate Iranians aware of population issues and the benefits of having smaller families while teaching them to read and write. It is being executed by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as part of the government's efforts to reach all its illiterate citizens by century's end, and to reduce the population growth rate from 2.63 per cent per year now to 2.3 per cent per year in 20 years.

At current rates, demographers expect Iran's population to double in less than 20 years. The government set up LMO in 1979, and charged it with reaching all of the country's illiterate population by 2000. The organization is now taking on population education in line with the government's twin priorities for national development: spreading literacy and reining in population growth to halt the deterioration in living standards. Those worst hit by poverty are those intended to benefit first: women, out-of-school youth, factory workers, hill people, and the rural poor.

Ultimately, the project aims to reach all illiterate Iranians aged 6 to 45, through non-formal literacy programmes and in schools. Its immediate goals are to train project staff, curriculum and materials developers, literacy instructors, teacher trainers, and primary school teachers, to integrate and provide literacy and population education, according to LMO chief Ali Vatani. Religious leaders and educational administrators are also in line for training.

UNFPA assistance, estimated at US$ 400,000 for the period 1991-93, will consist of academic fellowships, educational equipment, and technical advice, according to Adnan Soghaier, officer in charge of UNFPA's Iran office.

Iran's First Five Year Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan commits the government to slowing the population growth rate. The National Birth Control Policy calls for the prevention of one million "unwanted conceptions" during 1989-93 (1368-72 in the solar *Hegira* calendar used in Iran).

By the year 2011, Iran's population policy aims to lower fertility from the current 6.4 live births per woman to 4 births. The five-year plan sees its chances of success as relying on five points of action: increasing contraceptive use; enhancing literacy, with emphasis on schooling for girls; improving the status of women, and their participation in "socio-economic management of family and society in general"; improving health conditions, particularly infant and maternal mortality rates; and "repealing all regulations which encourage population growth."

There were some 49.4 million Iranians in October 1986, when the last national census was held. The government expects this figure to rise to around 61.3 million by 1993. □

Omani sees population problems

A PROMINENT OMANI sees population growth as a problem needing serious attention in his country and its neighbouring Gulf states. Kamal Bin Abdel-Reda Sultan says dwindling water, oil, and other natural resources underscore the urgent need to slow down population growth.

In an interview with the Arabic newspaper *Al-Hayat*, the former member of the State Advisory Council and current president of the Oman Historical Society said the provision of contraceptives and the expansion of family planning education are important first steps that should be taken alongside the country's first national census, scheduled for 1993.

Sultan said that the populations of the Gulf states are generally considered small, particularly because these countries' economies are dependent on expatriate labour. But annual population growth rates that range from 2.1 per cent to 4 per cent mean these populations are growing—and getting younger—fast, he said.

He said Oman's fertility rate stands at some 7.7 children per woman. Given this and "the substantial decline in mortality rates in Oman, the net increase in population becomes one of the highest rates in the world, estimated at 3.8 per cent to 4 per cent annually," Sultan said. "This . . . will create an imbalance in the population age structure, hence we see that more than 50 per cent of the population are children under the age of 15."

"Age groups under 15 and over 65 have to rely totally on the economically active groups," he added. "This has far-reaching implications," including higher-demand for scarce resources such as water.

"High population growth rates mean that larger portions of savings and investments will be diverted from the national development effort to preserve the existing standard of living," he said. This task may get tougher once stocks of Oman's principal, non-renewable source of income—oil—begin to run low, he warned, citing various studies which show the region's proven and potential oil reserves lasting anywhere from another 100 years, to only another 41 years. At current production levels, he added, Oman's reserves could run out in 25 years.

Looking to the future, "we can see a potential problem in terms of our population," he said. Oman's population—estimated at between 1.5 and 2 million—"will double in less than 20 years" at the current growth rate, he warned, adding: "Some measures to curb that growth must be taken now in order to avoid the problems that might arise as oil production levels start to decline by then."

Sultan said population programming in Oman should be based on the results of next year's national census. "Without such population data, it would be impossible to draw up scientific and rational plans of action."

In the meanwhile, Sultan favours increased distribution of contraceptives and a higher level of education for both women and men as means of restraining population growth. "The entrance by the Omani women into the labour market will also help the trend towards forming smaller families," he said. □

Family planning saves, improves lives: UNICEF

"FAMILY PLANNING could bring more benefits to more people at less cost than any other single 'technology' now available to the human race," according to the 1992 *State of the World's Children* report from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), "and it is not widely appreciated that this would still be true even if there were no such thing as a population problem."

The report asserts that family planning can have a profound effect on the quality of life and can prevent deaths. Some 500,000 women die every year from causes related to pregnancy and giving birth, and around 13 million children die each year before reaching the age of five. Many, perhaps most, of those deaths occur when births are spaced less than two years apart, or when there have been four or more previous births, or when the mother is younger than 18 or older than 35. The well-informed timing and spacing of births could therefore save the lives of hundreds of thousands of women and many millions of young children each year, the report states.

Quality of life

Family planning can relieve women of the physical and mental burdens of having too many children too close together, according to the report. And it can give them more time for education and training, for child care and community activities, for their own personal development, and for the "rest and leisure which are virtually unknown to millions of women in the developing world today."

Fewer and more widely spaced births would also improve the lives of hundreds of millions of the world's children. The report states that the incidence and severity of malnutrition would drop sharply and the overall quality of child care would also rise as parents invest more of their time, energy, and money in bringing up a smaller number of children.

One of the goals agreed on at the 1990 World Summit for Children was that, by the year 2000, all couples should have "information on the importance of responsible planning of family size and the many advantages of child spacing to avoid pregnancies that are too early, too late, too many or too frequent." This agreement, signed by the representatives of 159 countries—71 presidents and prime ministers among them—should mark the beginning of a renewed commitment to family planning, says UNICEF.

Because family planning has such a profound effect on maternal and child health, it could also boost progress towards many of the other year 2000 goals adopted at the Summit, says UNICEF Executive Director James Grant. Such goals include reducing child deaths by one-third, halving child malnutrition, halving maternal mortality, and reducing the incidence of low birth weight to 10 per cent or less.

In addition to these quality-of-life benefits, the achievement of family planning goals would also help to resolve the planetary problems of population growth and environmental deterioration, the report states.

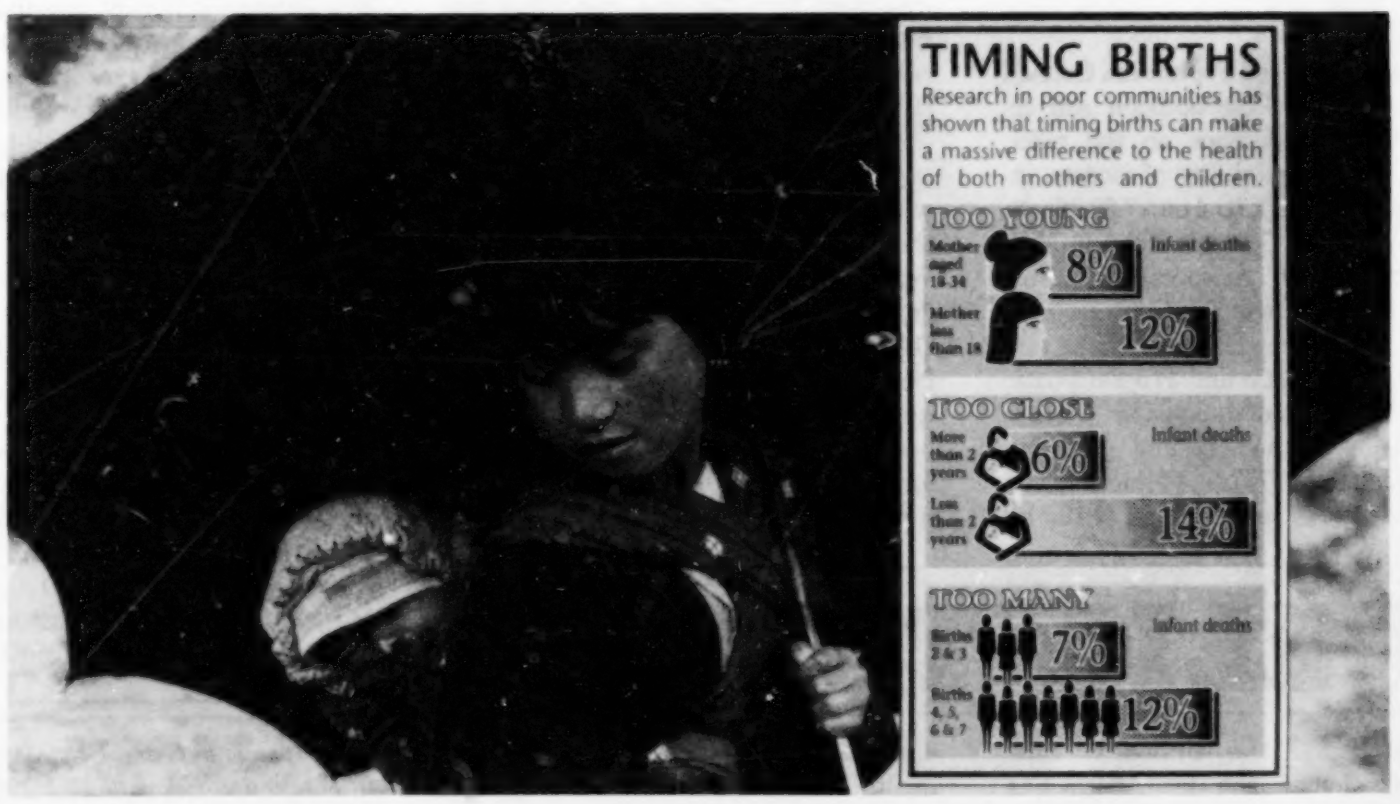
Strong demand

A strong demand for family planning already exists, the report notes. Evidence from the World Fertility Survey suggests that approximately one-third of all pregnancies in the world are unwanted. If all women were able to decide how many children to have and when to have them, then the rate of population growth would fall by about 30 per cent, or 1.3 billion people fewer than there would otherwise be in 2025—roughly China's current population.

The report suggests that, for all of these reasons, providing people with the knowledge and the means to plan births is one of the most effective and least expensive ways of improving the quality of life on Earth.

"Clouds of controversy and concealment have long hung over the family planning issue," says Grant, "but the range of methods now available means that family planning can now be promoted and practised in ways which are sensitive to the religious and cultural contours of almost all societies. The benefits of family planning need be denied to no one."

The UNICEF report concludes: "When so much stands to be achieved by the meeting of an existing demand and at so low a cost, it seems reasonable to propose that an effort now be made, on an entirely new scale, to put the knowledge and the means of family planning at the disposal of every couple of child-bearing age before the end of this present century." □



UNICEF

Family planning could "save the lives of hundreds of thousands of women and many millions of young children each year," according to UNICEF's 1992 State of the World's Children *report.*

Ozal counsels legislation

TURKISH PRESIDENT Turgut Ozal has advised developing countries to strengthen their population policies by adopting legislation in favour of family planning programmes.

Speaking at a media awards ceremony for population reporting last month in Ankara, Ozal said developing countries should not only lay down the necessary legal framework but should also secure individuals' rights to choose and use family planning methods.

He said the Turkish government was conscious of the important role of population in economic development, and has made significant legislative changes relating to population policies in order to make family planning programmes accessible even in the country's most remote areas.

"Our achievements in transforming our economy as well as our society in the last decade helped us tremendously in implementing population policies," Ozal said. "Thus Turkey's rate of population increase is now in regression."

With a population of about 60 million people, Turkey has a population growth rate of about 2.4 per cent per year, according to United Nations estimates.

Ozal spoke at the 1991 Global Media Awards ceremony. The awards are made by the United States-based Population Institute for "excellence in population reporting." This year's winners included journalists from Burkina Faso, France, Germany, Mexico, the Philippines, and the United States, and the Rome-based Inter Press Service. The winners were taken on a tour of the Turkish family planning programme. (*IPS*) □

READEX FICHE

NEWS IN BRIEF

BIODIVERSITY
Current farming practices are reducing the cultivation of diverse species and destroying genetic resources in a process that threatens Earth's future capacity to produce sufficient food for a growing world population, Brazilian experts say. They say world food markets are dominated by only 15 species of cereal, pulse, and tuber, out of some 3,000 worldwide considered for commercial production. This means that the world's human population is relying on a limited range of food crops which are being genetically eroded, they warn. Biological diversity is lost as large areas are forced into a monoculture, as is the case of Brazil's *cerrados*, which have been given over to soya production. This uniformity, scientists warn, increases the vulnerability of crops to plagues and other risks, as happened with the Irish potato blight of the mid-1800s and in 1970, when the United States corn crop failed. Researchers liken the consequences of a limited genetic base in crops to the idiocy that is the result of prolonged inbreeding among humans.

(*IPS*)

CONFERENCE
The dates and venue for the Fourth Asia and Pacific Population Conference (APPC IV) have been changed. The Conference, originally scheduled for 25 August-1 September in Jakarta, is now slated to take place in Bali on 18-27 August, according to the Indonesian government, which is hosting the Conference.

IUDs
The New York-based Population Council and the journal *Contraception* are cosponsoring a conference on the risks, benefits, and acceptability of modern intrauterine devices (IUDs) on 27-28 March at the New York Summit Hotel in New York City. The conference, called "A New Look at IUDs—Advancing Contraceptive Choices: A Balance Sheet of Risks and Benefits. . . Scientific and Programmatic Issues," is expected to consider the implications of biomedical and programmatic aspects of IUD use. Organizers say the conference proceedings will be published. For more information, contact: Christine Swanson, Conference Manager, Butterworth-Heinemann, Telephone: (617) 438-8464, Ext. 303 or 234. Fax: (617) 279-4851.

JORDAN
With water demand rising 10 per cent a year, population growing at 3.5 per cent annually, and little rainfall in recent years, Jordan's water resources have become perilously low, the *New York Times* reported on 10 December. This summer, the shortage became acute enough to prompt "the strictest water rationing ever in Amman," the capital. The newspaper cites agriculture ministry officials as saying farmers are being allotted enough water to irrigate one-third of the land that normally would be planted in the autumn in the central part of the Jordan Valley. "Many officials say they believe that Jordan's best hope for more water lies in regional water-sharing," something they hope will follow as a result of "talks envisioned as a later stage of the Arab-Israeli peace talks," according to the *Times*.

NAMIBIA
Nanawo—the Namibia National Women's Organization—was launched late November amid staunch support from the government, UNFPA Country Director Bill Musoke reports from Windhoek. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Netumbo Ndaitwah was elected its president. Addressing Nanawo, President Sam Nujoma said there was much to be done before Namibia could call itself a non-sexist society. He said that if women could manage a household, they could be equally capable managers in the business world. Nanawo's launching followed the 9 November meeting of the Women's Council Congress of the governing South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo). Prime Minister Hage Geingob said at the meeting that under *apartheid* the majority of Namibian women had been discriminated against for being black and also for being women. He emphasized Swapo's commitment to gender equality, and pointed to the appointment of women to a number of senior government positions as evidence of a healthy turn in Namibian society.

FAO

As world population grows, we are clinging to a limited range of food crops which are being genetically eroded, scientists warn.

MEETINGS
Preparations for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development enter a new phase this year with a round of six expert group meetings on selected topics, organizers say. The first such meeting, on "Population, Development, and the Environment," is scheduled to take place 20-24 January at United Nations headquarters. Subsequent meetings will cover population policies and programmes; women and population dynamics; family planning; population growth and structure; and migration and urbanization. Regional population conferences are also scheduled for Africa, the Arab world, the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean. No venue has yet been chosen for the Conference itself; similar conferences were held in Budapest in 1974 and Mexico City in 1984.

PLEDGE
United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik and other dignitaries signed an "Earth Pledge" on 6 December at the UN. Launched by Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Pledge commits signatories to individual and collective action to improve Earth's environment. The Conference is scheduled to take place in June in Rio de Janeiro.

UNIT
What was the Special Unit for Women, Population and Development at UNFPA is now the Women, Population and Development Branch of UNFPA's Technical and Evaluation Division. Catherine Pierce, chief of the old unit, has remained as head of the new branch. The change was announced as immediately effective last month by Executive Director Nafis Sadik.

TEGUCIGALPA
Central American presidents on 12 December signed the "Tegucigalpa Commitment" to prioritize human development in their countries. Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon was quoted in the press as saying: "Little by little, we must change the statistics and the characteristics of the lost decade for those of an era of hope." The "lost decade" refers to the 1980s, during which the region was plagued with war and economic decline. UNFPA Executive Director Nafis Sadik noted that the region's population is expected to double in the next 30 years. She said efforts to reduce poverty would be more likely to succeed if they include effective family planning programmes.

PUBLICATIONS

Demographers: The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa has published the seventh edition of the *African Directory of Demographers*, which lists the names and addresses of demographic experts on Africa. For more information, contact: The Chief, Population Division, UNECA, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Telex: 21029 UNECA ET.

Lagos: *Social Development in Africa: Strategies, Policies, and Programmes After the Lagos Plan* evaluates the social development initiatives that have been implemented in Central, West, North and East Africa since the Lagos Plan of 1981. Written by African scholars affiliated with the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, the monograph is divided into four main sections by region. It assesses the form, content, and operations of education, health, social security and welfare, housing, and community amenities plans, and looks at the role of women in social development. Available from: K.G. Saur, P.O.Box 31, New Providence, NJ 07974-9903, USA. Tel.: (800) 521-8110. Fax: (908) 665-6688.

Proceedings: *Aging and Urbanization*, published by the United Nations Population Division, presents the proceedings of the United Nations International Conference on Ageing Populations in the Context of Urbanization, which was held in Sendai, Japan in September 1988. The volume contains the report and recommendations of the conference, background papers, and specific city papers. Available from: Director, Population Division, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA. Telephone: (212) 963-3186.

Seminar: *Trends and Strategies of Action in Population Education for 1992-1995* is the report of the Regional Consultative Seminar on Population Education held in Bangkok on 21-28 May 1990. Published by, and available from: UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, P.O. Box 967, Prakanong Post Office, Bangkok 10110, Thailand.

Sri Lanka: *Population*, a quarterly bulletin published by the Sri Lanka Population Information Centre with assistance from UNFPA provides news, views, feature stories, and statistics on population, development, and environmental issues in the South Asian island country. For more information, contact: Director, Sri Lanka Population Information Centre, Population Division, Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs, 231 De Saram Place, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka.

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